Treatment Options for Congenitally Missing Lateral Incisors

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ABSTRACT

The treatment of *congenitally missing maxillary lateral incisors presents unique challenges to the dental profession and often requires a coordinated interdisciplinary approach involving orthodontists,[1,2,3,4,5,6] oral surgeons, periodontists, and restorative dentists to achieve optimal esthetic and functional results.[7,8,9,10,11,13] Careful diagnosis and information gathering as well as communication with the patient— and often, depending on age, their parents—is necessary to formulate a treatment plan that will accomplish the desired results and satisfy patient expectations.[13,14,15,16] There are many factors that affect treatment options, such as occlusion; alignment of teeth; patient age; available space; alveolar bone thickness; facial profile; shape, color, and size of the canines; lip position; gingival display; and condition of adjacent teeth.[17,18,19,20] An ideal treatment plan should take into account all of these factors to achieve the esthetic and functional goals with the least-invasive option available.[5] This presentation will not recommend a particular treatment modality, but identify the available options and discuss their advantages and disadvantages.[1-20]*

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